

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08302 041547Z

65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 SSM-03

TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 IGA-02 MCT-01 /103 W

----- 094009

O P 041431Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2218

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 152

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON SIX

COM THREE FOUR MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8302

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION NOVEMBER 4

REF: BEIRUT 8275 (DTG 031422Z OCT 76)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 08302 041547Z

1. SUMMARY. ARAB SECURITY FORCE REINFORCEMENTS STILL NOT

ARRIVED, BUT THERE ARE SEVERAL POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS. SARKIS AND HASAN SABRI AL-KHULI CONTINUE EFFORTS ARRANGE AGREEMENTS ON ASF PLACEMENT AND ARE JOINED BY SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVES. DIRECTORS OF GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES AND OFFICES TOLD TO MAKE INVENTORIES OF WAR DAMAGE IN ANTICIPATION OF RECONSTRUCTION. KAMAL JUNBLATT AND GEORGE HABASH CONTINUE VERBAL ATTACKS ON RIYADH AGREEMENT. MODERATE MUSLIMS REMAIN OPTIMISTIC. CEASE-FIRE GENERALLY HOLDING, BUT CLASHES IN BEIRUT AND THE SOUTH. END SUMMARY.

2. REASONS FOR DELAY IN ARRIVAL OF ARAB SECURITY FORCE REINFORCEMENTS VARIOUSLY EXPLAINED BY PRESS AS: 1) TECHNICAL HANGUPS; 2) NEED TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT ON PLACEMENT AND COMMANDER; AND 3) ARAB LEADERS' DESIRE TO LEARN OUTCOME OF AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. SYRIAN HOPE TO NEGOTIATE WEAPONS SURRENDER BY CHRISTIANS IN MOUNTAINS MAY BE ANOTHER REASON. LEBANESE ARMY G-2 SOURCE SAYS RIGHTISTS HAVE AGREED ALLOW SYRIAN ASF UNITS TO PASS THEIR POSITIONS AND DESCEND TOWARD BEIRUT BUT REFUSE TO GIVE UP WEAPONS TO ASF. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR QUOTES "WELL-INFORMED SOURCES" THAT ASF OF 10,000 TO BE DEPLOYED IN NEXT FEW DAYS. PIERRE GEMAYEL MET NOV 3 WITH KATAEB MILITARY LEADERS TO DISCUSS ASF PLACEMENT. FRANGIE TOLD PRESS NOV 3 HE HAS AGREED TO ENTRY OF ASF INTO EASTERN ZONES AND HAS SO INFORMED AL ENVOY HASAN SABRI AL-KHULI. LEFTIST AL-MOHARRIR ATTACKS WHAT IT SAYS IS DETERMINED KFUR FRONT EFFORT TO OBSTRUCT IMPLEMENTATION OF SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS. PAPER SAYS RIGHTISTS DELIBERATELY CREATING "MILITARY CONFUSION," TRYING TO EXACERBATE MILITARY TENSIONS, REJECTING ASF IN-DEPTH DEPLOYMENT, REJECTING PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN ASF WHILE PROPOSING CHRISTIAN PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATING WITH ISRAEL TO EXACERBATE SITUATION IN SOUTH.

3. POLITICAL EFFORTS CONTINUE. PRESIDENT SARKIS CONTINUES HIS EFFORTS TO REACH AGREEMENT BY ALL GROUPS ON PLACEMENT OF ASF. HE MET SEPARATELY NOV 3 WITH SAUDI ARABIAN MILITARY ATTACHE ALI SHA'IR AND SYRIAN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 08302 041547Z

DELEGATION INCLUDING SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVE COL. MOHAMMED AL-KHULI AND HEAD OF SYRIAN FORCES IN BEQAA, GENERAL JAMAL. MEETING WITH SYRIANS ALSO ATTENDED BY HASAN SABRI AL-KHULI. MOHAMMED AL-KHULI MET LATER WITH CAMILLE CHAMOUN AND GENREAL AL SHA'IR WENT TO SEE JUNBLATT. RADIO AMSHIT SAYS AN ASF COMMAND COUNCIL WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY WITH GENERALS AL-SHA'IR AND JAMAL BOTH MEMBERS. HASAN SABRI AL-KHULI MET LATER IN

DAY WITH MARONITE PATRIARCH, GREEK ORTHODOX LEADERS AND FATHER CHARBEL KASSIS. KASSIS TOLD PRESS, "THE LEBANESE CRISIS IS NOT BETWEEN LEBANESE AND PALESTINIANS BUT BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND ARAB KINGS AND HEADS OF STATE. THIS SITUATION HAS MADE US MORE OPTIMISTIC."

4. RECONSTRUCTION. DIRECTOR OF LEBANESE DEVELOPMENT BANK, AND POSSIBLE SARKIS CHOICE FOR PRIME MINISTER, SALIM EL-HUSS, PRESIDED NOV 3 OVER BAABDA MEETING OF 16 DIRECTORS OF GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES AND OFFICES. EACH DIRECTOR CHARGED WITH MAKING PROVISIONAL INVENTORY OF WAR DAMAGES IN HIS ADMINISTRATIVE AREA. EL-HUSS SAID MEETING WAS CALLED AS RESULT OF JOINT DECISION BY SARKIS AND KARAMI. WE HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORT EL-HUSS INTENDING TRAVEL TO UNITED STATES NEXT WEEK TO BEGIN NEGOTIATING WORLD BANK LOAN FOR LEBANON RECONSTRUCTION.

5. JUNBLATT AND REJECTIONISTS. PFLP ISSUES STATEMENT THAT "DEFENSE OF THE PALESTINE REVOLUTION DEMANDS WE FIGHT AGAINST THE DECISIONS OF THE RIYADH MEETING." PFLP LEADER GEORGE HABASH HEADED REJECTION FRONT GROUP WHICH MET NOV 3 WITH KAMAL JUNBLATT. JUNBLATT LATER ISSUED STATEMENT THAT PALESTINIANS MUST ADOPT A UNIFIED ATTITUDE BECAUSE "THE ISOLATIONISTS HAVE NOT RENOUNCED THE MARONITE STATE IDEA" AND "THE PLOT CONTINUES TO BE CARRIED OUT IN ANOTHER FORM." JUNBLATT ALSO CALLED ON IRAQI AMBASSADOR. A REJECTION FRONT SPOKESMAN SAID "THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND REJECTION FRONT AGREE TO THE CEASE-FIRE BUT REJECT THE POLITICAL RESULTS OF THE ARAB SUMMIT." WE UNDERSTAND JUNBLATT ATTEMPTS TO MEET WITH PLO LEADERSHIP LAST WEEK BROUGHT FATAH RESPONSE THAT IT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 08302 041547Z

HAS DECIDED TO ABIDE BY RIYADH AGREEMENT, LEADING JUNBLATT TO REMARK NM HAS BEEN BETRAYED BY SOME PALESTINIAN GROUPS. AL MOHARRIR SAYS SARKIS IN CONTACT WITH JUNBLATT THROUGH PERSONAL EMISSARY JOHN ABAYD.

6. MODERATE MUSLIMS. MODERATE MUSLIM LEADERS CONTINUE EXPRESS OPTIMISM ON PEACE POSSIBILITIES. ABDALLAH YAFI SAYS HE IS "VERY OPTIMISTIC" BECAUSE "THE LEBANESE CRISIS HAS ENTERED ITS DEFINITIVE PHASE." SAEB SALEM SAYS, "THE PEOPLE HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF WAR AND AWAIT WITH IMPATIENCE THE ARRIVAL OF THE ARAB SECURITY FORCES."

7. ON THE GROUND. ARTILLERY DUELS AND CLASHES BROKE OUT LATE NOV 3 ALONG BEIRUT CONFRONTATION LINE,

PARTICULARLY MUSEUM AREA DND EXTENDING TO SOUTHERN SUBURBS. BOTH SIDES CLAIM ATTEMPTS BY OPPOSITION TO INFILTRATE. ALL OTHER FRONTS -- NORTH, SOUTH AND IN THE MOUNTAINS -- ARE RELATIVELY QUIET. RIGHTIST LEADER OF "FRONT FOR NORTH LEBANON" DENIES PRESS REPORTS OF ANOTHER CLASH BETWEEN CHRISTIAN VILLAGERS OF ZGHORTA AND BASHARA. LEBANESE ARY G-2 REPORTS NOV 2 CLASH BETWEEN RIGHTISTS AND PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS AT SOUTHERN BORDER VILLAGE OF ALMA ASH-SHAAB NEAR RAS NAKURA. Wafa, in first such statement since beginning of rightist offensive in far south, says Palestinian guerrillas have destroyed an Israeli vehicle operating near Rmaysh and Ayn Ibl. Villagers of Al Kfir in Hasbaya area deny press reports Al Kfir occupied by Palestinians who were alleged to have burned houses, including family home of US Senator James Abu Rizk. Another Kataeb/Natioonal Liberal Party shoot out occurred in Jisr al-Basha area Nov 3. Bechir Gemayel and Dany Chamoun issued joint statement to Kataeb and NLP members warning that "isolated incidents" between militiamen of the two parties risk causing "massive entry of Arab intervention forces" into rightist areas and threatening severe punishment for those who continue the conflict.

LANE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT08302
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760411-1239
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761183/aaaacttx.tel
Line Count: 193
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 8275
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION NOVEMBER 4
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006